

Eon	Era	Period	Epoch	Ma	Life Forms	N. American Tectonics	
Phanerozoic (Phaneros = "evident"; zoic = "life")	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Recent, or Holocene	0.01	Age of Mammals	Cascade volcanoes	
			Pleistocene	1.8		Worldwide glaciation	
		Tertiary	Pliocene	5.3		Large carnivores	Uplift of Sierra Nevada
			Miocene	23.0		Whales and apes	Linking of N. & S. America
			Oligocene	33.9			Basin-and-Range Extension
			Eocene	55.8		Early primates	Laramide orogeny ends (West)
			Paleocene	65.5			
			Mesozoic	Cretaceous		145.5	Age of Dinosaurs
	Jurassic	199.6		First mammals Flying reptiles	Elko orogeny (West) Breakup of Pangea begins		
	Triassic	251		First dinosaurs	Sonoma orogeny (West)		
	Paleozoic	Permian		Age of Amphibians	Mass extinctions Coal-forming forests diminish	Super continent Pangea intact Ouachita orogeny (South) Alleghenian (Appalachian) orogeny (East)	
			299			Ancestral Rocky Mts. (West)	
		Pennsylvanian	318.1		Coal-forming swamps Sharks abundant Variety of insects		
		Mississippian	359.2		First amphibians First reptiles	Antler orogeny (West)	
		Devonian	416		Mass extinctions First forests (evergreens)	Acadian orogeny (East-NE)	
		Silurian	443.7		First land plants		
		Ordovician	488.3		Mass extinctions First primitive fish Trilobite maximum Rise of corals	Taconic orogeny (NE)	
		Cambrian			Marine Invertebrates	Early shelled organisms	Avalonian orogeny (NE) Extensive oceans cover most of N.America
	542						
	Proterozoic ("Early life")	Precambrian			1st multicelled organisms	Formation of early supercontinent	
				Jellyfish fossil (670Ma)	First iron deposits Abundant carbonate rocks		
			2500				
			~3600	Early bacteria & algae	Oldest known Earth rocks (~3.93 billion years ago)		
	Hadean ("Beneath the Earth")					Origin of life?	Oldest moon rocks (4-4.6 billion years ago)
					4600	Formation of the Earth	Earth's crust being formed